

**IN THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below regardless of whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Original) An optical amplifier, comprising:  
a gain medium;  
an input monitor, operable to measure a power of an ingress optical signal and generate an input power signal based on the power;  
an output monitor, operable to measure a power of an egress optical signal and generate an output power signal based on the power;  
an automatic gain controller including a feedforward module and a feedback module;  
the feedforward module operable to receive the input power signal generated by the input monitor and to generate a first control signal based on the input power signal;  
the feedback module operable to receive the input and output power signals generated by the input and output monitors and to generate a second control signal based on the input and output power signals; and  
the automatic gain controller operable to control pump energy provided to the gain medium based on the first and second control signals.

2. (Currently Amended) The optical amplifier of Claim 1, wherein the pump energy is provided to the gain medium using optical pump ~~is a continuous wave laser~~.

3. (Original) The optical amplifier of Claim 1, wherein the gain medium is erbium doped fiber.

4. (Original) The optical amplifier of Claim 1, wherein the input and output power signals generated by the input monitor and output monitor are electrical signals.

5. (Original) The optical amplifier of Claim 1, wherein the first and second control signals generated by the feedforward module and feedback module are electrical signals.

6. (Original) The optical amplifier of Claim 1, wherein the first control signal is based on the input power, an aging factor, and the desired gain of the amplifier.

7. (Original) The optical amplifier of Claim 1, wherein the control signal generated by the feedforward module is linearly proportional to the input power signal.

8. (Original) The optical amplifier of Claim 1, wherein the control signal generated by the feedforward module is monotonic to the input power signal.

9. (Currently Amended) An optical amplifier, comprising:  
a pump laser operable to generate pump energy;  
a gain medium coupled to the pump laser and operable to amplify an optical signal with the pump energy to generate an amplified optical signal;  
a controller coupled to the pump laser and the gain medium, the controller operable to control the pump laser based on feedforward monitoring of the optical signal, ~~signal and~~ feedback monitoring of the amplified optical signal, and an aging factor of the pump laser.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Original) The optical amplifier of Claim 9, the controller further operable to control the pump laser based on a desired gain of the amplifier.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the optical pump comprises a continuous wave laser.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein feedforward monitoring is based on a linear relationship between the input power and a pump current of an optical pump.
14. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein feedforward monitoring is based on a monotonic relationship between the input power and a pump current of an optical pump.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein feedforward monitoring is based on a linear relationship between the input power and a pump current of a set of optical pumps.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein feedforward monitoring is based on a monotonic relationship between the input power and a pump current of a set of optical pumps.